

Paul's First Letter to
the Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL
COMMUNITY



Fellowship Sunday School Community

- Meets in Fellowship Hall
- Elders: Bill Watkins (lead elder), Rick Phillips, Brendon Branigin (soon to be TE), Kirby Kee
- 4 Fellowship opportunities during the year
- Offering for class projects
 - Last year:
 - Bibles for Emmanuel PCA
 - Ukranian relief
- Study this year: 1 Corinthians
- Teachers: Kirby Kee, Brendon Branigin and Bill Watkins

1 Corinthians 1:1–9 (ESV)

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—
6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—
7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Study of 1 Corinthians

C. A.D. 33/34

Conversion of Paul

C. A.D. 48/49–51

Paul plants church
at Corinth

C. A.D. 53–55

Paul writes
1 Corinthians

- ✓ *Instructive to see Paul deal with the Corinthians major problems*
- ✓ *Edifying and encouraging to read the soul-stirring theology*
- ✓ *Sobering to discover that Corinth is a mirror to the culture and church of today*

“The cosmopolitan character of the city and church, the strident individualism that emerges in so many of their behavioral aberrations, the arrogance that attends their understanding of being people of the Spirit, the accommodation of the gospel to the surrounding culture in all too many ways—these and some other features of the Corinthian church are but mirrors held up before the church of today.”

-- Gordon Fee

I. The Unique Setting of Corinth

- A. Geographically
- B. Economically
- C. Culturally

II. The Focus of Paul's letter

- A. Greetings and thanksgiving vv 1-9
- B. Appeal to the Corinthians' divisions vv 10-17
- C. Treatment of speech, knowledge, wisdom, and folly vv 18-31

1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

The Unique Setting
Of Corinth -
Geographically



1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

The Unique Setting
Of Corinth -
Economically

- Home to the Isthmian Games
- Travelers, Sailors, Traders, Tourists
- Businesspeople, Entrepreneurs
- Tolls and Fees

“a deeply competitive, self-sufficient, and entrepreneurial culture marked by ambitions to succeed”

-- Anthony Thistleton

“Consumerism”

1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

The Unique Setting
Of Corinth -
Culturally

- Corinth II
 - ✓ Sacked and destroyed in 146 B.C.
 - ✓ Rebuilt in 44 B.C. by Julius Caesar
- Although Greek, it was a Roman city
- Energetic business culture – quick success or quick failure a part of the mindset

“Competition, patronage, consumerism, and multiform layers and levels of success were part of the air breathed by citizens of Corinth.”

“a humiliated, crucified Christ was an affront to people ... who loved winners”

-- Thistleton

Corinth

Important, intellectually alert, materially prosperous, but morally corrupt.

-Morris

1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

The Focus of Paul's
Letter

*Greetings and
Thanksgiving*

1:1-9

Insights into the Letter

- Greetings vv1-3
 - Call of the Apostle v1
 - Call of the saints v2
 - Common faith with the wider Church v3
- Thanksgiving vv4-9
 - Grace of God given to them vv4-8
 - Enriched in speech and knowledge v5
 - Confirmed in their testimony v6
 - Not lacking in gifts v7
 - Sustained until the end v8
 - Faithfulness of God v9

1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

The Focus of Paul's
Letter

*Appeal to
Corinthian Divisions
1:10-17*

Reasons for Paul's Appeal vv 10-17

- Because of the reports of division vv11-16
- Because of his commission by Christ v17

17 "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

The Focus of Paul's
Letter

Treatment of:

- *Speech*
- *Wisdom*
- *Folly*

1 Corinthians 1:20–21 (ESV) — 20 *Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21* *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ...*

1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV) — 23 *but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,*

1 CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION



Insight into today's church and our culture



1st century Corinthian aberrations –

Are a mirror before the 21st century church –

The solution for both is Christ the wisdom and power of God